

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In accordance with Rule 1.121, replacement paragraphs are reproduced below. Changes in the amended replacement paragraphs are shown by strikethrough for deleted material and by underlining for added material.

(I) Please replace the paragraph encompassing line 26 on page 14 through line 4 on page 15 with the following paragraph.

Illustrated in Figure 7 ~~2-(7)~~ are the effects of the carbon oxidation temperature on the surface area of the product fibers. At lower temperatures, for example 500 °C, the complete removal of the template required usually more than 24 hours. At higher temperatures, for example 900 °C, the template was completely removed within seconds. The BET surface area of the Al₂O₃ fibers was higher for lower template-removal temperatures, and when the temperature was 500 °C and above, heating in air yielded better results than in O₂. However, when the temperature was as low as 450 °C, only O₂ could be used to remove all the carbon template, yielding a product with a very high BET surface area of above 500 m²/g.

(II) Please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 24-30 on page 15 with the following paragraph.

Illustrated in Figure 8 ~~3-(8)~~ are the effects of the carbon removal temperature on the surface area and the yield of the MgO fiber products. At lower carbon removal temperatures, such as 400 °C, longer periods of time were required to remove the carbon, and surface areas up to 250 m²/g were obtained. Higher carbon removal temperatures yielded fibers with lower surface areas. N₂ absorption isotherms showed that that all the product MgO fibers were mesoporous materials. X-ray diffractometry of the fibers revealed a cubic MgO crystal structure.